Light, Salt, & Life

(A Mini-Study of Matthew 5:13-16)

Lionel Hartley

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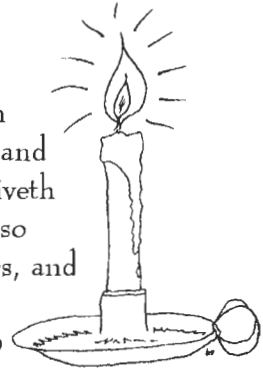
Light

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. / Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. / Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16



Created - Genesis 1:3-5; Isaiah 45:7; 2 Corinthians 4:6

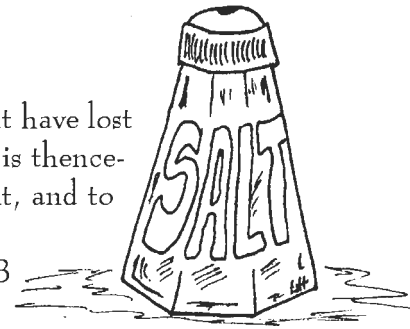
Miraculous - Matthew 17:2; Acts 9:3

Figurative and symbolic - 1 Kings 11:36; Psalm 27:1; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23; Ecclesiasties 2:13; Isaiah 8:20; Isaiah 49:6; Isaiah 58:8; Isaiag 60:19-20; Matthew 4:16; Matthew 5:14; Matthew 5:16; Luke 2:32; Luke 11:34; Luke 16:8; John 1:4-5; John 1:7-9; John 3:19-21; John 5:35; John 8:12; John 9:5; John 12:35-36; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 5:8; Ephesians 5:14; Philipians 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 Timothy 6:16; James 1:17; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:19; 1 John 1:5; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 21:23

Salt

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Matthew 5:13



Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt - Genesis 19:26

The city of Salt - Joshua 15:62

The valley of salt - 2 Samuel 8:13; 2 Kin 14:7

Salt Sea - Genesis 14:3; Numbers 34:12; Deuteronomy 3:17; Joshua 3:16; Joshua 12:3; Joshua 15:2

Saltpits - Zephaniah 2:9

Animal sacrifices required to be seasoned with salt - Leviticus 2:13; Ezra 6:9; Ezekiel 43:24; Mark 9:49

Salt used in ratifying covenants - Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5

Elisha casts salt into the pool of Jericho to purify it - 2 Kings 2:20-21

Figurative usages:

Of the saving efficacy of the church - Matthew 5:13 (Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.) ; Mark 9:49-50 (For every one shall be salted with

fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. / Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.); Luke 14:34 (Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? / It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.)
Of wise conversation - Colossians 4:6 (Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.)

Life: Combining Light & Salt to create a pleasing personality

(Friendship Evangelism.)

As you will have already realised, to get the most out of life, you will need to be able to get along with people. This means that others will like you and want to do things for you.

Your personality is your attitude in action.

When you get along with people it is because they find your personality positive and pleasing. How can we create a positive personality? Here are a few tips:

1. To make and keep a friend, Be a friend; be friendly.

2. Think what type of person you would like to have as a friend - how you would like to be treated, then be that type of person yourself for others.

3. People **need** to feel wanted, loved, needed, so help create these feelings in others.

4. Be kind to others - You may not feel you can love them, but at least you can be kind.

5. Learn to love yourself because others will often treat to you the way

they see you treating yourself.

6. Let others impress you rather than trying to impress them.

7. Honesty often hurts, often makes us vulnerable, but honesty always wins in the end.

8. Deliberately do and/or say things to make others feel important: Praise, encouragement, support, co-operation, courtesy (please & thank-you).

9. Be enthusiastic - it is contagious, it motivates others as well as you, it builds bonds within relationships.

10. Call others by name, repeat it often in conversation.

11. Learn to listen. People are warmed more by how you listen than what you say.

12. Be positive, as positive attitudes are attractive to others. We like to be around positive people - negative people repel us (if we are negative, we repel others).

13. Be cheerful & pleasant. Smile often - smile with your eyes as well as your mouth.

14. Before you choose to argue, stop and place a value on your friendship.

15. Help others to like themselves. Remind them that you like yourself better when you are with them.

16. Show a genuine interest in others, listen as you invite them to talk about themselves. Seek their opinions, ideas, viewpoints.

17. If you can't say something good about a person, keep silent.

18. Allow the other person to be "right" sometimes.

19. If you really must poke fun at someone, be sure it is you.

Written & Illustrated by Lionel Hartley ©1986 (Renewed 1999)

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